

truths, and we do well to ponder them. In the lesson are four things which should be made the subject of special study: 1. God is revealed in Christ Jesus. 2. He is near to all of us. 3. He commands all men to repent. 4. He will be our final Judge. How did the Athenians receive this Gospel message? What caused some of them to mock?

#### PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

1. *The Unknown God.*—Why did not the Athenians know the true God? If culture has anything to do with it then surely these people should have known all about the God whom Paul proclaimed to them. Literature and art and poetry and philosophy had reached their highest summit in Athens, and if these alone are sufficient to meet the needs of the human soul, then they should have been perfectly satisfied. And yet with all their learning, with their more than thirty thousand gods, they were unsatisfied and their hearts were reaching out after something which they did not yet have. When human culture has done its best it has gone no farther than this: To the unknown God. The world thro wisdom knew not God, nor will it ever find him out in that way. Jesus Christ alone reveals God.

2. *A Common Brotherhood.*—The apostle Paul taught that all nations were the off-spring of one God. He is the Father of all and thus all mankind belong to one common brotherhood. It is important that we should recognize this fact. In their pride the Athenians claimed to be a nation far superior to that of any other, but Paul strikes at the root of this pride in declaring that God was the Father of all mankind, that we are his off-spring and none may boast of an origin higher than another, for God is the creator of all.

3. *Not Far From Us.*—God is very near to all of us, yet many live in darkness and know him not. It is a sad picture of the world that God should be so near and yet so far away. Those who seek him have not far to go. He is not far away like the distant stars, but is near to all who would draw nigh to him. In times of special prayer and seasons of devotion God is so near that we can almost feel his steppings upon the heart. It is a great comfort that we need not wait until we die to live with God; we can live with him now if we will.

4. *God's Now.*—Paul tells his hearers that in times past God had overlooked the sin and ignorance of the heathen, but that now Christ had come and the work of redemption was accomplished God called men everywhere to repentance. This is the

gospel call to-day, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

#### WHAT WE SHOULD DO.

1. Make known the true God thro Jesus.
2. Declare God as the source of all life.
3. Declare God as Creator and Redeemer.
4. Earnestly seek a nearness to God.
5. Accept the call to repentance.
6. Prepare for the coming judgment.

#### MAKE THE LESSON FIT THE CLASS.

One day I was speaking to a primary class on the golden text, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." I tried to make it plain by saying, "Now, if some one should come to one of these girls and say, 'Mary, go up stairs to your mother's room and get ten dollars out of her pocketbook for me,' Mary would say, 'I couldn't do that; that would be wicked.' But if, just as mother had said, 'Come, Harry, run down to the village and get me a loaf of bread,' some boys should come along and say, 'O Harry! we're going swimming; come along with us,' I'm afraid Harry wouldn't think it very wicked to do what the boys wanted him to do." Just at this point I was interrupted by a little fellow, not over nine years old, who said, "No, sir! My mamma asked me to go down town for her, and some boys wanted me to go with them but I said, 'No, sir!'" At least one scholar knew what that golden text meant.

I taught the same lesson to a class of boys twelve years of age. Now, I might have talked an hour on the danger of being enticed into drunkenness, blasphemy, or licentiousness; but those boys were not then in any danger of such sins or such sinners. But when I said, "Boys, did you ever hear any boys say, 'Come, Ned, let's go have a smoke,' or 'Come, Tom, let's go get some of old man Smith's apples,' I saw at once that they had been tempted along those lines. We must make the truth fit the scholars, and we can if we will.—*Sunday School Times.*

The little I have seen of the world teaches me to look upon the errors of others in sorrow, and not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptations it has passed through, the brief pulsations of joy, the feverish inquietude of hope and fear, the pressure of want, the desertion of friends, I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellowman with Him from whose hand it came.—*Sel.*

We learn to do by doing.—*Parker.*

## The Mission Field.

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#### M. R. C. NTOES.

The work of the Missionary Reading Circle has been slowly growing as people are becoming acquainted with it.

The following names have been enrolled since last report:

67. Rev. J. M. Bowman, Glenford, O.
68. Russel McKrill, Warsaw, Ind.
69. Essie Beam " "
70. Harry Clover, " "
71. Ethel Firestone, " "

Conference has given a place on the program to this work and all are coming to see its importance. A knowledge of conditions must precede a successful application of the remedy.

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C. F. YODER, Sec.

Warsaw, Ind.

#### OUR COUNTRY.

(Gleanings from one of the books of the Missionary Circle Course)

This is one of the first books of the course. Written by a prominent representative of the American Home Missionary Society. It is replete with facts about our wonderful wealth and possibilities and perils that thrill one with admiration and trembling. It shows how the lives of nations are divided into epochs, each one marked off by a crisis.

Prof. Austin Phelps says, "It is worthy of note that almost all the thinking which thinking men have given to the subject for the last fifty years has been along the line of the idea of crisis in the destiny of this country and through it the destiny of the world."

Again and again Dr. Lyman Beecher said in substance on eastern platforms, "Now is the nick of time. In matters which reach into eternity now is always the nick of time. One man now is worth one hundred fifty years hence. One dollar now is worth a thousand then. Let us be up and doing before it is too late."

"One who studies the beginnings of Christianity will not fail to detect a mas-